



August 26, 2010

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Giffords,

CALSTART and its 147 member companies applaud your leadership to help the Department of Defense in aggressively reducing its energy use and leading the nation by deploying hybrid and advanced drive non-tactical vehicles on its facilities and exploring hybrid and advanced technology vehicles for tactical use. It is for these reasons we support the Department of Defense Energy Security Act.

The Department of Defense Energy Security Act helps maintain American leadership in the production and use of advanced, energy-efficient vehicles. This bill can help grow an America-led industry, will spur the economy in critical sectors and create much needed, good paying jobs in transportation, engineering, electronics, manufacturing and defense industries. This legislation can provide multiple benefits at a critical time.

In our work over the last decade and a half with military partners we have seen the deep and visceral commitment they have to the nation's security and energy goals, and the link between the two. We believe that this bill will provide the military with strong tools to achieve their petroleum reduction and energy efficiency goals here at home that contributes to their effectiveness and to our nation's long-term security. At the same time, expanded use and deployment of non-tactical advanced vehicles paves the way for the eventual validation of these systems in tactical vehicles, providing the war-fighter with additional capabilities on the battlefield.

Technologies that cut fuel consumption and reduce the number of convoys – thus protecting soldiers' lives – must of course also meet the highest standards of reliability, performance and cost-effectiveness. Through programs such as the Hybrid Truck Users Forum (HTUF) we have helped industry identify and meet these requirements in hybrid truck systems. The timing is now ripe for military use of these commercially-proven systems; we are confident the military will achieve the same level of success as the commercial sector has had with its fleet vehicles.

It was a genuine pleasure to meet and spend time with you in your office, and thank you for the generous amount of time you gave us. I very much look forward to working with you on these and other issues.

Sincerely,

Bill Van Amburg  
Senior Vice President  
*HTUF Program Executive*

Clean Transportation  
Technologies and Solutions

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